

Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) Meeting

April 16, 2013

Mayor's Conference Room

BPAC Member Attendees: Amy Eskind, John Harkey, Kim Hawkins, Chaz Irvin, Rob Laird, John Norris,, Freddie O'Connell, Keith Rawls, Tony Saunders, Debbie Thurman, Peter Westerholm, Edwin Williamson, Russell Willis, Brian Wray

BPAC Member absences: Tom Grooms, Dov Hirsch, Rob Laird

Metro employee attendees: Mark Bradfield (Parks), Dr. Bill Paul (Health), Van Gill, Caroline Vincent (Art), Thomas Hatfield, Michael Briggs (Planning), Harold Burke, Sandra Thomas-Trudo, Van Gill,

Advocacy groups: Austin Bauman (Nashville Bike Alliance). Adams Carroll (Walk/Bike Nashville)

Other: Councilmember Burkley Allen, Clifton Ogden (consultant),

1. Chair Kim Hawkins called the meeting to order.
2. **Minutes.** Minutes of the December 2012 Meeting were approved (motion by John Norris, second by John Harkey).
3. **Secretary.** Nominations were made for Secretary, since Kristine Mylls, re-elected secretary at the last meeting, has resigned from BPAC due to work obligations. No one volunteered to serve or to nominate, so the Chair suggested a rotating secretary, with the Vice Chair taking on the task for the April 16 meeting.
4. **Next meeting (Retreat).** The next meeting will be the BPAC annual retreat, and is tentatively set for June 15 (Saturday) from 8:30 am-11:30 am. A location hasn't yet been chosen. The retreat will be for BPAC members only.
5. **Department updates.** Department Updates were sent by Public Works, Planning, Water, Parks and the Arts Commission (bike rack designs) prior to the meeting for review by BPAC members. In addition, a presentation was given by the water department (see attachment) concerning replacement of storm water grates on streets that are a hazard to bike riders.
6. **Pedestrian/Bike Accident statistics.** John Norris led off a discussion about bike/pedestrian accident/fatality statistics, with input from police, public health, and public works.
 - a. There seemed to be agreement that more information could be added to the existing report, but that the full accident report is not available in data base (spread sheet) format, making a fuller statistical report difficult to pull together.
 - b. The police representative also reported that accident report details can't be released if a case is being prosecuted, and this can lead to long delays in the release of the full report.
 - c. In addition, accident reports are not computerized and are not separated out by whether a bike or pedestrian is involved.
 - d. It was noted by Norris that seven of 18 fatal pedestrian crashes he reviewed were on Old Hickory Blvd., suggesting a need to focus some additional efforts there.
 - e. There is some discussion within the police department of upgrading (computerizing) the system.
 - f. Input was given by Austin Bowman about a smart phone application for reporting accidents.

- g. Dr. Paul indicated that Public Health would like to review a blank report form and give input into the types of data to be collected.
 - h. Next steps: A get-together of staff from the three departments to improve accident reporting for the BPAC meeting was determined to be important, and a meeting was to be scheduled later.
7. **Storm water grates.** The water department report, given by Leoncio Dominguez, focused on replacement of bike-unfriendly storm water grates. The report is being sent out to BPAC members with the minutes. Dominguez indicated that 2,000 bicycle unfriendly storm/drain grates have already been repaired or replaced since the problem was identified (**when??**). The project to replace bike-unfriendly grates has identified the need for approximately \$1.75 million in funding to replace approximately 1,900 grates in the city core and around university areas. Water department staff members estimate that a five year program at about \$350,000 per year would allow the 1,900 grates to be replaced and rendered bike friendly. **Next steps: Grate replacement will begin___???**
8. **B-Cycle:** The B-cycle program run by the Downtown Partnership was reported to be going well. Updated use statistics were provided and are included with these minutes.
- a. B-cycle plans to keep current bike location sites for at least one year, but will move more bikes to Centennial Park where use to date has been heavy, taking them from a little used site on Jefferson Street, but leaving that site with some bikes.
 - b. There is now reciprocity with other B-cycle programs around the nation, meaning those with a Nashville B-cycle membership can use their membership in other cities. However, before a Nashville member can use the card in other cities, the member must do a credit card swipe to be recognized in the other city.
 - c. Many people are confused about how long they can use the bike, and the program has been busy refunding charges for people who were making mistakes and holding on to bikes longer than one hour.
 - d. There will soon be a kiosk added at the downtown YMCA and the kiosk at the Riverfront Park area will be moved during CMA festival.
 - e. B-cycle data was not available for the meeting, but is available as an attachment to this packet. Highlights include 2720 bike checkouts in March and 1614 purchased memberships, including 94 annual memberships. (**Note: future reports will include a fuller range of use data including total memberships, checkouts year-to-date, and information on maintenance, stolen bikes and accidents.???**)
9. **BPAC mapping application.** At the February BPAC meeting, a recommendation was made to have available an on-line map to help visualize bike/pedestrian projects around the city. Michael Briggs reported there was now a map available at Nashville.gov with bikeway, sidewalk, and greenway information in GIS format:
<http://maps.nashville.gov/bpakviewer>

The connectivity study data has been added as well as public works data on existing and planned bikeways and sidewalks. It was mentioned that crash data could also be input. The Groove map data is not on the site yet, but can be added. A layered approach is used, allowing the map view to include and exclude specific features (e.g., include existing sidewalks and planned sidewalks, and exclude bike lanes) to improve clarity of focus. **Next steps:** Adding the Groove Map.

10. **Bike Month Events:** Adams Carroll highlighted bike month (May) events and the related web site. He indicated that there were 50 events last year, and already 75 events this year, including events sponsored by “partners.” So far, there are 20 partners for this year’s events. The web site for information is:
www.nashvillebikemonth.com
Among the most popular events, Bike to Work Day is scheduled for Friday, May 17, and the Tour de Nash is scheduled for Saturday, May 18.
11. **Bicycle Parking Requirements.** Councilwoman Burkley Allen presented a concept proposal to require new developments within the UZO to include covered, lockable bicycle parking for residential property and accessible, lockable bike parking for commercial developments. Next Steps: Ms. Allen will wait to introduce specific legislation until more study of the issue is completed.
12. **March work session reports:**
 - a. **Nashvi-clovvia:** Peter Westerholm offered a proposal to have a Cyclovia event (tentative name Nashvi-clovvia) in September, though it might be combined with a Hands on Nashville event in October. His slide presentation was part of the packet received by BPAC members and meeting attendees. Comments about his proposal by attendees were favorable, including the set of locations (Vietnam Veterans Bridge to the Gulch) and the range of activities. **Next steps:** The proposal will need to be vetted by the Mayor’s office and partners will need to be lined up.
 - b. **Input for updating the strategic plans for sidewalks and bikes.** John Harkey highlighted some of the recommendations for updating the strategic Plan for sidewalks and bikeways, including recommendations for specific projects. The full report was contained in member packets. Next steps: Harkey to meet with BPAC Chair Kim Hawkins and with Laurel Creech to prepare for a meeting with public works to discuss the BPAC input.
 - c. **Protected bike lanes.** Edwin Williamson presented a proposal for several possible protected bike lanes into the downtown area. A variety of approaches to protection were mentioned in his proposal, which was part of the packet for BPAC members and attendees. **Next steps:** The proposals will be vetted by the Mayor’s office and discussed with public works as part of the other strategic bike pedestrian plan inputs and projects.
13. **Bike Pedestrian Coordinator.** There is no update on this request.
14. **Adjournment.** The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6 pm.

Submitted by John Harkey